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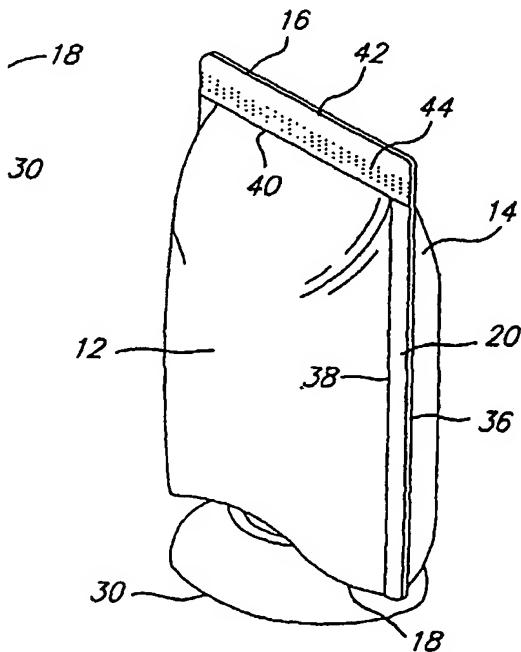
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(54) Title: FLEXIBLE POUCH AND METHOD OF FORMING A FLEXIBLE POUCH

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(57) Abstract: A flexible pouch for packaging a product, such as a carbonated beverage, is provided that includes a front panel and a back panel each having an upper edge, a lower edge opposite the upper edge, and side edges extending therebetween the upper and lower edges. The pouch includes a first closing seal extending along an upper edge of the joined front and back panel formed a predetermined length from the open edge so that there is no dead space inside the pouch between the product and the first closing seal and a second closing seal outside the first closing seal, to form a pocket trapping some of the product between the first closing seal and the second closing seal. A method of forming and filling the pouch includes the steps of forming each panel and joining two panels by sealing together the side edges and lower edge. The method also includes the steps of opening the pouch and filling the pouch with the product. The method further includes the steps of closing the filled pouch by forming a first closing seal extending along an upper edge of the pouch a predetermined length from the upper edge, such that there is no dead space inside the pouch between the product and the first closing seal, and forming a second seal between the first closing seal and the upper edge thereby trapping the product between the first closing seal and the second closing seal, and finishing the pouch.